

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 15, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chris Kozaites, President, at 9:00 a.m., in the library at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center. Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Chris Kozaites, President
Harry Saltzgaver, Vice President
Bea Antenore
Raymond Chavarria
William Marmion

Absent: Drew Satariano (excused)

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Terry Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning and Development
Bert Srack, Acting Manager, Community Recreation Services
Cindy Fogg, Superintendent of Youth Services
Steven Neal, Chief Ranger
Kevin Prelgovisk, Manager, Business Operations
Gwendolyn Parker, Superintendent of Contracts and Revenue Development
Dan Rosenfeld, Assistant Administrative Analyst
Mark Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Doug Parsons, Superintendent of Marina Operations
Robin Black, Executive Secretary to the Director

Guests: Robert Lamond, Partners of Parks
Julie Dover, Goodwill Industries
Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific
Barbara Long, Aquarium of the Pacific
Keith Hacke, Aquarium of the Pacific
Cal Olson, Cal Olson Architecture
Roberto Cabrerra, U.S. Soccer League

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 20, 2004 AND JUNE 17, 2004

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to approve the May 20, 2004 and June 17, 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

President Kozaites thanked Commissioner Antenore for serving the last two years as President of the Parks and Recreation Commission and presented her with a plaque.

Commissioner Antenore thanked everyone and said she has enjoyed her time on the Commission.

III. SAMMY AWARD PRESENTATION – BERT SRACK

Ms. Bert Srack gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various places she took Sammy over the past two months. She then presented the Sammy Award to Lydia Reminsky, with the Planning and Development Bureau.

IV. EMPLOYEES-OF-THE-MONTH PRESENTATIONS FOR JUNE AND JULY

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Lisa Conway as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Administrative Employee of the Month for June. Mr. Tom Shippey stated that Ms. Conway helps with the community services program and the City Attorney's office. He said that this program assigns work to those who are referred by the court system. He said that she has moved to the Maintenance Operations Bureau's administration office and now works on the Bureau's work order system, which assigns work to the field staff, in addition to working on the community services program. Mr. Shippey said that there is a lot of work with both of these programs and Ms. Conway does a great job with a smiling face.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Ms. Melanie Vanzandt as Marine Bureau's Field/Operations Employee of the Month for June. Mr. Mark Sandoval referred the Commission to Mr. Doug Parson, who is Ms. Vanzandt's supervisor. Mr. Parsons said that Ms. Vanzandt works at the marina launch ramps, making sure that all the gates work or are fixed when they are broken. He said that this is not always an easy job and she does a great job in dealing with the public.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that the next few Employees of the Month were not available to receive their awards in June and will be announced as Employees of the Month at this meeting.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Mr. Rudy Rivera as Community Recreation Services' Field Operations Employee of the Month for July. Ms. Dana Clark said that Mr. Rivera works at Bixby Park and that he makes her job so much easier. She said that she could count on him to supervise Bixby Park and handle any issues when she is not at the park.

Vice President Saltzgaver announced Mr. Lester Thompson as Maintenance Operations Bureau's Lead/Supervisory Employee of the Month for July. Mr. Tom Shippey said that Mr. Thompson has been under-filling as supervisor at Beach Maintenance for the past four years. He said that this last month Mr. Thompson was promoted to the position of supervisor at Beach Maintenance. Mr. Shippey said that Mr. Thompson knows more about the beach than anyone in the department and has a great attitude.

Mr. Hester stated that there was someone in the audience who would like to make a presentation and then would have to leave.

Mr. Roberto Cabrerra introduced himself and presented a plaque to Mr. Phil Hester for his support of the U.S. Soccer League. He also gave a plaque to be given to Marc Gutfeld, from the Sports Office, for his help with the league.

Mr. Hester stated that this is a new adult soccer league and staff has been able to work out times for the team to play at Chittick Field, even though there is a shortage of field times in Long Beach. He said that most of the players are from Long Beach.

V. COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#04-0701

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0702

PLANS FOR RENOVATION OF THE WAVE FOUNTAIN AT THE AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC

Mr. Hester introduced Mr. Jerry Schubel, President of the Aquarium of the Pacific, and Barbara Long, also with the Aquarium. He said that they would present plans for the Wave Fountain.

Mr. Schubel stated that he has enjoyed their partnership with the City. He said that they would like to use the Wave Fountain as an educational tool, to show what happens to water from the mountains to the ocean.

Ms. Barbara Long distributed information and went over the model of the fountain that they brought, describing the theme and concept design for the Wave Fountain.

Commissioner Chavarria asked about safety at the fountain. Ms. Long responded that the current railing would remain and the rock in the fountain would adhere to the surface.

Commissioner Marmion asked if there are any plans to outreach to the surrounding area. Mr. Schubel responded yes, they would do an outreach and there would be a new classroom, with a watershed table, in back of the aquarium.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that perhaps the Parks and Recreation Commission could meet at the Aquarium of the Pacific in January.

Commissioner Antenore asked about the height of the fence. Mr. Shippey responded that the fence is 3 feet high.

Vice President Saltzgaver asked how much the grant was. Ms. Long responded \$190,000, and that money has been received to repair the fountain. She said that there would be signage installed to draw people to the fountain.

Commissioner Marmion asked if the fountain was vandal proof. Mr. Schubel responded that it is vandal proof.

Mr. Hester stated that the water to the fountain is on a timer.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Vice President Saltzgaver to recommend that the City Manager and the City Council approve the renovation of the Wave Fountain at the Aquarium of the Pacific as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0703

DEVELOPMENT OF HOMELAND CULTURAL CENTER AT MACARTHUR PARK

Mr. Dennis Eschen described the history of the Homeland Cultural Center at MacArthur Park and stated that Proposition 12 and Proposition 40 funds were granted to build a small theater with folding seats and a lobby/art gallery at the facility.

Mr. Hester stated that a new library would be built down the street and the Department could use the old library building for a center.

Commissioner Marmion asked about the estimated date of completion. Mr. Eschen responded that the development of the Homeland Cultural Center is estimated to be completed in 2006.

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to approve the construction of the Homeland Cultural Center at MacArthur. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0704

PERMIT WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF LONG BEACH AND SOUTH BAY FOR DONATION CENTER LOCATED NORTH OF WILL ROGERS MINI-PARK BETWEEN NIETO AND 3RD STREET

Ms. Julie Dover, from Goodwill Industries, distributed information on the proposed donation center.

Commissioner Marmion asked if the community has been notified. Ms. Dover responded that door-hanger information has been left in the area.

Mr. Hester stated that the City Council office has also let the community know, and they would do so again.

Commissioner Marmion asked when the donation center would be built. Ms. Dover responded that work could possibly begin in the next four weeks.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to recommend to the City Council that a permit be executed with Goodwill Industries of Long Beach and South Bay for a Donation Center located north of Will Rogers Mini-Park between Nieto Avenue and 3rd Street. The motion carried unanimously.

#04-0705

PERMIT WITH GENE AND JAN TODD FOR USE OF A PORTION OF THE FORMER PACIFIC ELECTRIC RIGHT-OF-WAY PROPERTY LOCATED BETWEEN 7TH STREET AND XIMENO AVENUE

Mr. Hester stated that the Todd's would use this property temporarily, as it is vacant now. He said that this would put the property to good use and it cleans up the area.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Marmion to recommend to the City Council that a permit with Gene and Jan Todd be executed allowing them use of a portion of the former Pacific Electric right-of-way property, located between 7th Street and Ximeno Avenue, for growing trees and other horticultural purposes. The motion carried with Vice President Saltzgaver abstaining.

#04-0706

USE PERMIT WITH THE LIONS CLUB OF NORTH LONG BEACH (UPTOWN LIONS CLUB) FOR A CARNIVAL AT HOUGHTON PARK AND REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested that the security be continued, as there had been issues in the past at this event.

It was moved by Commissioner Chavarria and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a facility use permit with the Lions Club of North Long Beach, also known as the Uptown Lions Club, for a carnival at Houghton Park. In addition, it is recommended that the \$1,300 in fees associated with the permit for this event be waived. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the Committee met and discussed the agenda and the committees.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Kozaites, Chair

President Kozaites stated that the statement was included in the packet, and that 75 percent of the year had expired, expenditures were at 66.2 percent, and revenue was at 71.6 percent.

a. ANALYSIS OF FEE WAIVERS FOR USE OF COMMUNITY CENTERS

Mr. Kevin Prelgovisk stated that notices to users have been sent that fee waivers may be cut in the future.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that he was concerned that the fee waiver for Volunteers of America would be cut and that perhaps an explanation would be needed for their services rendered and that they provide the lunches when the facilities are open. He requested a report on fee adjustments and if the costs are being recouped.

President Kozaites suggested that this issue be referred back to the new Finance and Appeals Committee.

Mr. Hester stated that staff would revisit the policy on fee waivers.

Commissioner Chavarria stated that he wanted to make sure that the public is educated on fee policies.

Mr. Hester stated that staff is rewriting sports fields policies also.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission send a letter to Gerald Miller, City Manager, reiterating the stipulations made by the Commission that funds for fees and charges be redirected back to the maintenance and operation of Department facilities. Commissioner Antenore stated that she agreed.

President Kozaites stated that the Finance and Appeals Committee should meet before the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Mr. Hester stated that staff could survey other cities as to their fee policies.

Ms. Gwendolyn Parker stated that she could check with other large cities. She said that small cities grant fee waivers on a case-by-case basis.

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to receive and file the report. The motion carried unanimously.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
vacant, Chair

President Kozaites stated that there is no chair for the committee and that there had been no meeting; the committee meets quarterly. He stated that the report was included in the packet.

D. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
COMMITTEE
Commissioner Satariano, Chair

President Kozaites stated that Commissioner Satariano is not in attendance and that there would be a meeting next month.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Commissioner Marmion, Chair

Commissioner Marmion stated that the committee met this morning. He stated that the report was included in the packet and referred the Commissioners to information on page 27 of the Director's report.

Mr. Eschen mentioned that the Bluff Plan of Development has been appealed by the Coastal Commission and they may eliminate some of the stairways.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Antenore, Chair

Commissioner Antenore stated that the committee did not meet this month.

Mr. Hester stated that he wanted to mention that Lee Miller left the City to work in another city close to his home. He said that the Department went through the selection process and promoted Ken Herbage to the position of Superintendent. Mr. Hester introduced Mr. Herbage and stated that he is the person who monitors the park maintenance and custodial contracts for the Department.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2004

Commissioner Chavarria stated that he attended the Juneteenth event and thought it was great. He said that as mentioned on Page 16, there have been lots of visitors to the Nature Center.

Commissioner Marmion stated that as mentioned on pages 8 and 9, he was very happy with the Commission on Youth and Children and congratulated them on the work they have done.

Commissioner Antenore stated that as mentioned on page 13, there is a large amount of permit fees and light fees waived for youth groups.

President Kozaites stated that this is an outstanding report and the Department does a huge amount of work.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that a copy of the report be sent along with a letter to the City Manager.

President Kozaites stated that listed under the highlights, it was mentioned that Councilmember Baker awarded proclamations to four Department members for creative art contributions. He suggested that they attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting with Heather Green so that the Commissioners can commend them.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

President Kozaites stated that there was no correspondence.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Kozaites stated that there was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON THE 21ST CENTURY LEARNING CENTER – CYNTHIA FOGG

Ms. Cynthia Fogg distributed information to the Commissioners on the 21st Century Learning Center grant. She said that she worked with the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) to apply for \$20 million, which would be distributed to 34 schools. She said that this is for a program held at schools, free to kids, and that LBUSD would take 15 percent. She stated that the City would be reimbursed depending on how many children attend the program. Ms. Fogg stated that they would apply for the next grant, for programs to be run at parks this time.

Mr. Hester mentioned that the Commission on Youth and Children would be receiving a report on budget reductions.

Vice President Saltzgaver requested a copy of that report.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that Cynthia Fogg should be on the City Schools/Joint Committee.

B. PRESENTATION OF PROJECT WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE DOMINGUEZ GAP AND DEFOREST WETLANDS PROJECTS

Mr. Eschen explained the project to the Commission, that this is an agreement with Los Angeles County.

It was moved by Commissioner Marmion and seconded by Commissioner Chavarria to recommend to the City Council the execution of a joint program agreement with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District for the DeForest Wetlands and Dominguez Gap projects. The motion carried unanimously.

C. REQUEST BY THE LONG BEACH MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE RENAMING OF SKYLINKS GOLF COURSE AS "SKYLINKS AT LONG BEACH"

Mr. Hester stated that even though this is not under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Commission, this item is for the Commission's recommendation only.

Mr. Cal Olson stated that Skylinks Golf Course needed a makeover. He described the renovations. He stated that for every palm tree removed, another tree was planted at the course. He said that there is now a cart path and the greens have been lengthened. Mr. Olson stated that the course is a great asset to the city.

Mr. Hester stated that Skylinks is a new, highly improved golf course, not the same old Skylinks. He said that they plan to open October 1.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to recommend to the City council their approval to rename Skylinks Golf Course as "Skylinks at Long Beach" on completion of the major renovation of the course. The motion carried unanimously.

D. DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION MEETING LOCATIONS

Mr. Hester stated a suggestion was made to hold the Parks and Recreation Commission meetings at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center, in the library, because it could hold more people.

President Kozaites suggested that the Employees of the Month announcement be deferred to when all staff can attend.

Vice President Saltzgaver suggested that the Commissioners could go to other facilities for special reasons, such as when the Houghton Skate Park is open.

Commissioner Marmion suggested that the Commission could also hold a meeting in a classroom at the Aquarium.

It was moved by Vice President Saltzgaver and seconded by Commissioner Antenore to move the rest of the 2004 Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to the El Dorado Park West Senior Center, in the library. The motion was carried unanimously.

XI. COMMENTS

A. AUDIENCE

Mr. Bob Lamond stated that he should have taken up golf.

B. STAFF

There were no comments from staff.

C. COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Marmion asked about West Nile Virus (WNV) in El Dorado Regional Park. Mr. Shippey responded that a group of mosquitoes with WNV were found in El Dorado Regional Park and that the Health Department and Los Angeles County planted mosquito fish and they would also fog the area.

Mr. Hester stated staff is handing out information on WNV at the Concerts in the Park.

Mr. Shippey stated that staff has met with the contractors to inform them also.

Commissioner Chavarria stated that the 4th of July event held at the Senior Center was wonderful. He also said that there were four Parks and Recreation Commissioners who attended the Budget Summit.

Vice President Saltzgaver stated that it is important to stay on top of the budget and the number one topic is cuts for youth. He also said that as for the Aquatics Festival, he wished that David Ashman's efforts had been recognized. He said that this Department is taken for granted.

President Kozaites stated that there was good attendance at the Budget Summit.

Commissioner Antenore stated that if park items keep getting cut, then quality of life would be affected.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2004, in the library at El Dorado Park West Senior Center, 2800 Studebaker Road, Long Beach.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Kozaites adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Secretary
to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine